



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2009

No. 79

Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by the Reverend Bill Shuler from Capital Life Church in Arlington, VA.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, as we bow our heads and pray, we acknowledge that we are one nation under God. Grant these Members of the Senate wisdom. Let their leadership be marked by faith, courage, health, and compassion.

God, we pray that You will refresh these Senators. Help them envision a world that is not yet but ought to be. Make their goals clear, their hearts brave, and their actions resolute. Grant them integrity and purpose in their generation. Let their daily duties translate into better lives for those they serve. God, reward their hard work. Bless their families and bless their staffs.

We pray these things in the Name of the One who binds up the broken-hearted and proclaims liberty to the captives. In Jesus' Name, amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2346, the emergency supplemental appropriations bill, with the time until 10 a.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. At 10 a.m., the Senate will proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 2346. The filing deadline for second-degree amendments is 9:30 a.m. today.

We are confident cloture will be invoked on this most important piece of legislation. I think we have had a very good debate on a number of issues. We will finish this bill before we leave this week. We hope we can do it today. There is no reason we should not be able to do it today, but if not, we will have to let the 30 hours run out sometime tomorrow evening.

We have had a tremendously productive work period. We have all worked extremely hard, and as I have said before, it is nice to be able to be home during the week rather than just on

weekends. So we look forward to having a productive work period during the next week in our home States and look forward to having a productive day today and sending this bill on to the House and have the conference completed. There are very few things that need to be worked out in conference, but that should be done in a few days, and we will complete this when we get back. We have checked with the Pentagon, and they are satisfied that if we finish this when we get back, there will be adequate time to fund everything our troops need.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

GUANTANAMO

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, a little later this morning, the President will discuss his decision to close Guantanamo by an arbitrary deadline that is now only 8 months away. It is clear to both Republicans and Democrats in Congress that the administration does not currently have a plan for closing Guantanamo and that closing it without a plan is simply unacceptable. So I hope the President uses his remarks this morning to present a concrete plan that demonstrates how closing Guantanamo will keep Americans as safe as Guantanamo has.

We know the FBI has serious concerns about any plans to release or transfer other detainees into the United States. Just yesterday, FBI Director Mueller said detainees who are sent to U.S. soil, even if they are only sent to secure detention facilities, might still be able to conduct terrorist activities, much like gang leaders who have been able to run their gangs from prison. Director Mueller also stated that detainees released or transferred

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S5767